

Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. A system for distributing information during an event among a plurality of participants of the event, the system including:

a plurality of wireless devices individually associated with the plurality of participants, each wireless device including application software for enabling an associated participant to periodically store individual information in the wireless device during the event;

a network including a transceiver adapted to wirelessly receive individual information from and provide event information to the wireless devices;

a server connected to the network, the server including server software to enable the server to receive individual information from the transceiver, compute the event information based on the received individual information, and transmit the event information to the transceiver for wireless distribution to the participants via the wireless devices;

wherein the application software continues to enable storage of individual information in a wireless device when the wireless device including the application software is outside a range of communication with the transceiver.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the individual information is uploaded after a predetermined time period has elapsed.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the wireless devices are personal digital assistants.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the wireless devices include CDPD modems.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the network includes the internet.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the application software includes a web browser.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the application software enables the participants to transmit messages to other participants.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein the messages are stored on the server.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein the server software includes a filter for censoring the messages.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein the server software prevents transmission of messages to a participant in excess of a predetermined number of messages within a predetermined period of time.

11. The system of claim 7 wherein the messages are displayed to recipients as pop-up messages.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein the server software maintains a calendar of events on a web site on the network.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein the server software permits web users access to the event information via a web site on the network.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein the server software permits web users access to a web site including the event information and a calendar of events without requiring the web users to log in to the web site.

15. The system of claim 1 wherein the server includes a database for storing the individual information and the event information.

16. The system of claim 1 wherein the server software forwards an e-mail message to a participant in the event including the participant's individual information.

17. The system of claim 1 wherein the event includes an activity relating to one of marketing research, voting, fishing, and golf.

18. The system of claim 1 wherein the server software enables on-line registration for events via a web site.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the web site is commerce-enabled.

20. The system of claim 1 wherein the event is a golfing event and the individual information is golf score data of one of a participant and a team including the participant.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the server software permits web users access via a web site to a handicapping system after the web users log in to the web site, the handicapping system permitting submission of golf score data and providing updated handicap information.

22. The system of claim 20 wherein the event information is a leaderboard including the golf score data of participants in the event in leader order.

23. The system of claim 20 wherein the server software stops providing event information to a participant if the participant fails to upload golf score data for one of a predetermined number of holes of golf and a predetermined time period.

24. The system of claim 20 wherein the golf score data is uploaded after a hole of golf is completed.

25. The system of claim 20 wherein the server software interfaces with a handicapping system to permit calculations of handicaps of participants.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the server software generates a listing of the handicaps to be viewed on a web site.

27. The system of claim 25 wherein the server software provides an e-mail message to a participant who submitted golf score data for calculation of a handicap, the e-mail message including the calculated handicap of the participant.

28. The system of claim 20 wherein the application software enables the participants to upload to the server information relating to holes of golf identified as contest holes.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein the contest holes include one of a longest drive hole, a longest putt hole, a closest-to-the-pin hole, and a hole-in-one hole.

30. The system of claim 28 wherein the server software updates the contest hole information upon receipt of contest hole information from a participant, and provides the contest hole information for viewing by the participants.

31. The system of claim 28 wherein the server software sends compiled contest hole information based on the contest hole information received from participants to a wireless device of a participant as a pop-up message when the participant completes a hole preceding a contest hole.

32. The system of claim 20 wherein the application software enables the wireless devices to download and store advertising material from the network for viewing by the participants.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein the application software generates a main screen and individual hole screens on the wireless devices, a portion of the advertising material being displayed on the main screen, and another portion of the advertising material being displayed on the individual hole screens.

34. The system of claim 33 wherein each of the individual hole screens includes a unique portion of the advertising material.

35. The system of claim 33 wherein the main screen includes a link to a web site with financial content.

36. The system of claim 33 wherein the main screen includes a link to a web site with news content.

37. The system of claim 33 wherein the application software permits participants to enter an e-mail address into a wireless device for submission to the server to obtain additional information relating to an advertiser included in the advertising material.

38. The system of claim 33 wherein the application software enables the wireless devices to create icons relating to advertisers selected by the participants and included in the advertising material.

39. The system of claim 33 wherein the advertising material includes an episodic advertisement, the application software displaying the episodic advertisement on a wireless device in response to an episode.

40. The system of claim 39 wherein the episode is completion of a predetermined hole.

41. The system of claim 39 wherein the episode is completion of a predetermined number of holes.

42. A program for use with a communication system including a plurality of wireless devices for communicating with a transceiver when within a range of communication with the transceiver, the transceiver being coupled to a server by a network, the program including:

application software loaded on the wireless devices, the application software enabling participants of an event to use the wireless devices to input and store in the wireless devices individual information during the event regardless of whether the wireless devices are within the range of the transceiver, the application software uploading to the transceiver the individual information inputted into a wireless device when the wireless device is within the range of the transceiver; and

server software loaded on the server, the server software receiving the individual information from the transceiver and providing to the transceiver an updated compilation of the individual information from the participants as the

individual information is received for substantially continuous distribution to wireless devices within the range of the transceiver.

43. The program of claim 42 wherein the individual information is uploaded after a predetermined time period has elapsed.

44. The program of claim 42 wherein the application software enables the participants to transmit messages to other participants.

45. The program of claim 42 wherein the server software maintains a calendar of events on a web site on the network.

46. The program of claim 42 wherein the server software forwards an e-mail message to a participant in the event including the participant's individual information.

47. The program of claim 42 wherein the event is a golfing event, the individual information is golf score data of one of a participant and a team including the participant, and the event information is a leaderboard including the golf score data of participants in the event in leader order.

48. The program of claim 47 wherein the server software permits web users access via a web site to a handicapping system after the web users log in to the web site, the handicapping system permitting submission of golf score data and providing updated handicap information.

49. The program of claim 47 wherein the golf score data is uploaded after a hole of golf is completed.

50. The program of claim 47 wherein the application software enables the participants to upload to the server information relating to holes of golf identified as contest holes.

51. The program of claim 50 wherein the server software updates the contest hole information upon receipt of contest hole information from a participant, and provides the contest hole information for viewing by the participants.

52. The program of claim 47 wherein the application software enables the wireless devices to download and store advertising material from the network for viewing by the participants.

53. A method of providing a substantially continuously updated golf score leaderboard to participants in a golfing event, the method including the steps of:

enabling wireless devices carried by the participants to wirelessly communicate golf score data of the participants to a server via a transceiver coupled to the server by a network, the wireless devices communicating the golf score data only when within a range of communication with the transceiver;

enabling each wireless device to receive and store golf score data from a participant at any time during the event, regardless of whether the wireless device is within the range of the transceiver;

updating a leaderboard based on the golf score data of the participants when golf score data is received by the server; and

downloading the updated leaderboard to the wireless devices substantially continuously during the golfing event.

54. The method of claim 53 further including the step of providing the wireless devices to the participants.

55. The method of claim 53 wherein the golf score data is automatically communicated to the server after a predetermined time period has elapsed.

56. The method of claim 53 further including the step of providing a database connected to the server for storing the golf score data and the updated leaderboard.

57. The method of claim 53 further including the step of preventing the downloading of the updated leaderboard to a particular participant if the participant fails for a predetermined number of holes of golf to communicate golf score data.

58. The method of claim 53 wherein the golf score data is communicated after a hole of golf is completed.

59. A system for distributing scoring information and advertisements during an event among a plurality of participants in the event, the system including:

a plurality of wireless devices individually associated with the plurality of participants, each wireless device including application software for enabling an associated participant to periodically store individual information in the wireless device during the event;

a network including a transceiver adapted to receive individual information from and transmit information to the wireless devices; and

a server connected to the network, the server including server software to enable the server to receive individual information from the transceiver and

transmit event information based on the received individual information to the transceiver for wireless distribution to the participants via the wireless devices;

wherein the application software further enables the wireless devices to download from the server resident advertising material and links to network advertising material, thereby permitting viewing of the resident advertising material on a wireless device that is out of a range of communication with the transceiver.

60. A program for use with a communication system including a plurality of wireless devices for communicating with a transceiver when within a range of communication with the transceiver, the transceiver being coupled to a server by a network, the program including:

application software loaded on the wireless devices, the application software enabling the wireless devices to upload during an event to the server via the transceiver individual information of participants in the event, and to download and store advertising material and links to network advertising material, the stored advertising material being viewable on a wireless device that is out of the range of the transceiver; and

server software loaded on the server, the server software receiving individual information from the transceiver and providing to the transceiver event information based on the individual information as the individual information is received for substantially continuous distribution to wireless devices within the range of the transceiver.

61. A method of providing a substantially continuously updated golf score leaderboard and continuously viewable advertising material to participants in a golfing event, the method including the steps of:

enabling wireless devices carried by the participants to wirelessly communicate golf score data of the participants to a server via a transceiver coupled to the server by a network;

enabling the wireless devices to download and store advertising material from the network for viewing by the participants even when the wireless devices are outside a range of communication with the transceiver;

updating a leaderboard based on the golf score data of the participants each time golf score data is received by the server; and

downloading the updated leaderboard to the wireless devices substantially continuously during the golfing event.